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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8337
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RUEHSK/AMEMBASSY MINSK 0136
RUEHVJ/AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO 0123
RUEHYE/AMEMBASSY YEREVAN 0030
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS 0445
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 4239
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DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/PGI, IO/RHS AND DRL/MLGA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/27/2017

TAGS: PHUM PREL UNHRC NL

SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/HRC: DUTCH RECEPITIVE TO BOSNIAN AND SLOVENIAN RUNS

REF: STATE 21984

Classified By: Political Counselor Andrew J. Schofer; reasons 1.4 (b and d).

¶1. (C) Poloff delivered reftel demarche February 27 to Pieter van der Vliet, Head of Political and Legal Affairs, MFA UN and IFIs Department. Van der Vliet had not yet heard of the Bosnian run but speculated that, given the current pool of candidates, the Dutch would back the bid. The Netherlands will certainly not vote for Belarus, he added.

¶2. (C) Van der Vliet thought the Dutch quite likely to support Slovenia, if for no other reason than having a moral obligation to support a fellow EU member. What this might mean in the event another EU member decided to run for an EEG seat, he did not say.

¶3. (C) Van der Vliet said the Dutch are ramping up their own campaign for re-election. They would appreciate our support but recognize they face "stiff competition" from Denmark and Italy.

¶4. (C) Van der Vliet asked whether we would run. He said the MFA has heard that the NSC is opposed to our running and that opinion is divided within the State Department.

BLAKEMAN